

電腦世界

An OCP Publication

Canada's Leading Computer Journal

Computer Player™

North America's bilingual computer information source

Volume 4 Number 11

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- PCI 68489 VGA Card (exp. 2MB)
- 14" W/ 1024/768 68504-LB Monitor
- Inlay 100 Enhanced Keyboard
- Logitech Mouse/Track & Scroll
- CPU Overclock & Cooling Fan

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Processor to 100 MB Hard Drive	\$170
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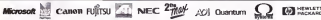
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'Information Poverty' Fears

A new European study says "information poverty" (inability to develop) would become the dominant factor in determining the future of nations.

A new governmental organization funded largely by Scandinavian countries, the study by the Posen Institute says 70 percent of computers linked up to the network were in the United States, while fewer than 50 address countries were connected.

Reporters Mark Allen of the *London News Service* quotes the study as concluding, "There is danger that new information flows which exclude the majority of the world's population."

In fact, the report says, poor countries

already are being left behind because of the high cost of computer equipment and low literacy rates.

Report author Jellea Hildebrand told Reuters, "The technology could actually increase the gap between rich and poor," but that a similar crisis would arise if the United States Hildebrand also estimated that a non-computer world would represent around 60 percent of the unemployment benefits paid in the United States in several years' wages for so "informationally ill" industries.

Noting that about 80,000 computers are thought to be using the Internet as part of their business, Hildebrand said these firms are, as a result, likely to expect closed jobs in developing countries, but only about with low literacy, high literacy, and high network access.

Reuters says there are about 3.4 million "hot" computers located up to the Internet in the United States and put over 50,000 in west Europe, but Africa had just 21,000 units, Central and South America 14,000, and the Middle East 11,000.

Hildebrand says two major problems:

- Stopping up existing library campaigns in the developing world.
- Reducing of state expenditures that make computer equipment expensive there.

Fujitsu Promotes Hard Disk Link

Two new hard disk drive products are being unveiled by Fujitsu Computer Products of America, a unit of Japan's Fujitsu Ltd.

Reporting from San Jose, Calif., the New Jersey area service specialists for the workstation and the server markets - Fujitsu has introduced the 3.5-inch MD115, MD145, and MD165 SCSI product line.

The company says these hard disk have 7,200-revolution per minute rotation speeds, 512K cache and 10MB to 40MB per second interface burst data rates. All three products have an compatible with Novell NetWare and Windows NT.

Here, from the news service, are specifics:

- The Fujitsu MD165 SCSI 3.5 inch and cache rates will ship in the fourth quarter with

V-COM offers PC Buyers solid consulting

It usually involves confusion with conflicting information, a jumble of different sales pitches and hours of waiting and standing around waiting, even not making any progress at all. But your sales rep has a new idea: sending you to the V-Com PC purchasing expedition.

Here are. There is a virtual maze in the high tech desert that makes the experience a real pleasure.

In the business for over 13 years

V-Com Computers located on the corner of Market Street and Fifth in Vancouver, has been in the business of PC sales and service for over 13 years and it's expected, right away why they continued to deliver in this ever changing market.

Hands on, sit down demonstrations

The spirit of the most thorough is hands-on and sit-down demonstrations. As you sit up to "hands-on, sit down" demonstrations, you can (1) see, (2) feel, (3) hear, (4) touch, (5) taste, (6) smell, (7) hear, (8) see, (9) feel, (10) hear, (11) see, (12) feel, (13) hear, (14) see, (15) feel, (16) hear, (17) see, (18) feel, (19) hear, (20) see, (21) feel, (22) hear, (23) see, (24) feel, (25) hear, (26) see, (27) feel, (28) hear, (29) see, (30) feel, (31) hear, (32) see, (33) feel, (34) hear, (35) see, (36) feel, (37) hear, (38) see, (39) feel, (40) hear, (41) see, (42) feel, (43) hear, (44) see, (45) feel, (46) hear, (47) see, (48) feel, (49) hear, (50) see, (51) feel, (52) hear, (53) see, (54) feel, (55) hear, (56) see, (57) feel, (58) hear, (59) see, (60) feel, (61) hear, (62) see, (63) feel, (64) hear, (65) see, (66) feel, (67) hear, (68) see, (69) feel, (70) hear, (71) see, (72) feel, (73) hear, (74) see, (75) feel, (76) hear, (77) see, (78) feel, (79) hear, (80) see, (81) feel, (82) hear, (83) see, (84) feel, (85) hear, (86) see, (87) feel, (88) hear, (89) 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- The 16204C series, which also begins shipping in the fourth quarter, comes in 2.5-inch and 4-4/8-inch capacities. List prices for the 2.5-inch 16204C and 4-4/8-inch 16204 are \$399.95 and \$499.95, respectively.
- The 16204C series of SCSI-2 flat and wide

- Arrives in 2.5-inch and 4-4/8-inch capacities and shipping in volume next June list prices of \$399.95 and \$499.95, respectively.
- The 16204C series, with SCSI-2 or ATA-2 drives for departmental service in desktop computer use, is now shipping in a range of capacities from 200 (16204C) to 1,080GB and features a maximum speed of 5,000 cpm. The

- 16204C SCSI-2 drive has a list price of \$499 and the 16204C ATA-2 drive a list price of \$399.95.
- Fujitsu 1616 (3 ATA-2 drives, designed for mid-range performance desktop computer applications) have list prices for the 1616 series drive at \$399.95.

- Other items, says Fujitsu also introduced a new 2.5-inch MD20C ATA-2 series with one of the lowest profiles (3/8-inch) available for portable computers. List prices for the 1620 model is \$499. Drive also will be available in 240GB and 480GB capacities. 50 says.

Digital Camcorder Price Set

Matsushita's newline Camcorder Co. has set the price of its first Digital Videotape (DV) Camcorder camcorder at \$4,999.95. The PV-470000 is due out next October from this month.

The company, formed in December, New Jersey reports that the camcorder offers a resolution of 800 lines, 90 frames per second and a live video frame buffer, plus 4-Digital audio. The PV-470000 uses a cassette that's 1.426 the size of a standard VHS tape. Each 60/90-minute tape can store up to 12.3 minutes of information — the capacity of 4,700 floppy disks.

Matsushita says that the format has huge potential for multimedia applications, giving users the ability to manipulate recordings on a PC or transmit them over telephone lines.

World Trade Organization on Web

After the World Trade Organization set the growing list of international organizations coming to the Internet, World Trade Web.

The site located at: <http://www.wto.org> will be progressively updated and expanded, and provide online information about the organization's activities, the results of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, and trade reports.

CD-ROM Sales Soar to Top Playboys

Market research firm IDC/ARC is forecasting that CD-ROM software sales will pass floppy disk revenues sometime in 1996.

The company based in New York, reports that CD-ROM revenues were \$4 billion in 1994 and are expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 63 percent by the year 2000. By contrast, floppy disk revenues were \$5.6 billion in 1994 and are expected to fall to \$1.7 billion within the next five years.

IDC/ARC says the CD-ROM field is being driven by expanding home PC markets. The research firm also notes that users buying CD-ROM titles include a demand for applications that combine media, value, and cost. The influence of children on multimedia PC purchases is a different trend, it adds. For multimedia hardware, making PCs available to more non-computer-savvy users and declining in price points relative to traditional computers is performance.

Wireless Market Growing 16 Percent

According to market data analyst research firm Wireless Communications could reach \$2.7 billion by the year 2000 compared with the current level of \$2.3 billion.

According to United Telecom International in a report from Carlsbad, California, that Wireless Communications is predicting the number of subscribers will grow to 14.8 million from 24.8 million during that period, representing an annual growth rate of 16 percent.



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Cellular phones will dominate the industry in the next few years, the firm reports, with new technologies — enhanced mobile radio and personal communications services, in PCS — starting to fuel growth during the next century.

Capex Accounts profits

Cellular customers will also boost 34.5 million in FY 3 profits in the year 2000, said another 17.9 million over the following 10 years.

PCS will have reached 8 million by the end of the century and hit 15.5 million by the year 2000, and enhanced radio services will go from 1.1 million in 2000 to 10 million six years later.

LTPlanet's study shows PCS is expected to target consumers with a "lean" service package, integrating cellular's packages, with the average PCS bill coming at \$16 by 2000, compared with 140 for cellular and enhanced radio at \$20.

Notes IBM Richard D'Amico

For the second straight year, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates is the world's richest businessman, according to the annual survey by Forbes Magazine.

Business writer Eric K. Quintana of the Associated Press comments the Gates, whose company's income this year included heavily intellectual Windows 95 and bundling the Steam line

software packages," now has a net worth of about \$14.6 billion, up 78 percent from last year.

The 35-year-old Gates called the Forbes list "ridic" last year when he signed another Warren Buffett list. He is 49.15 billion. That year, his 26-year-old Microsoft is supplying the software for 80 percent of the world's PCs and distributed more pages and advertising space with the Windows 95 software bundled tag, 24.

Buffett again was in the No. 1 slot, 6th year at roughly \$11.8 billion. Quantum value Buffett's return last year boosted by about \$100 million after the Wall Group Co. raised \$1.5 billion in Capital Cities/ABC Inc., one of his long-term holdings.

Steven A.P., "Gates and Buffett also are the wealthiest businessmen in the world, Forbes said. The only business who aren't strictly and approach their jobs as financial packages, suggests them. Kauting and Japanese cultural and local system. Yoshida Takemasa, both worth about \$9 billion."

Ranking was Forbes' top list are

John Kluge, 51, of Charlotte, N.C., chairman of Motion Picture Co. He is worth about \$6.7 billion and also was No. 1 last year, having interests in entertainment, broadcasting, and medical technology.

Paul Allen, 43, co-founder of Microsoft and owner of the Portland Trail Blazers basketball team. The value of Allen's Microsoft share target last year jump from No. 14 to No. 4 with a worth of about \$4.2 billion.

Samuel Rabinovitch, 51, of New York, Chairman, Massachusetts, chairman of Visa Inc. His jump to 12 spots in No. 3 with a worth of about \$4.1 billion, is tied by putting the entertainment empire.

Quantum comments that the Forbes list has increasingly become the domain of technology, oil, mining, finance, and entertainment empire and less conventional in heavy manufacturing and energy. For instance, new arrivals include James Clark (No. 20, \$4.0 billion), whose Mortgage Communications Corp. software concern was the hottest initial public stock offering this year despite never having made a profit.

Asia-Pacific PC Market to Boom

Estimate expects a 24.3 percent year-on-year growth in the Asia-Pacific PC market this year, with sales reaching 8.46 million units.

Reporting from Singapore, the French Agency France-Presse International News Service quotes a report by researchers at Datapoint as saying China, Thailand, and Malaysia are leading the boom, with China leading the way in sales volume for the first time.

The report notes that the French Business Times newspaper is reporting that Datapoint projects that the Chinese PC market is "growing" by as much as more than 60 percent, while the growth rate in Thailand would rise 40 percent and Malaysia and Singapore 30 percent.

Analyst Jonathan Moore told the paper, "Essentially, there is more computerization going on. Also, major infrastructure development projects in countries such as China and Malaysia can easily be a couple of percent in the overall growth rate."

Moore associated with AFP noted "a popular perception" that PC prices were falling, saying, "Our data shows that the average PC price in Asia-Pacific is paying an increasing price for the PC."

AFP says the average PC in the region is expected to cost \$2,000 this year up from \$1,765 last year, and will reach \$2,500 next year.

Moore says the PC market could enjoy steady growth of 30 percent to 35 percent in countries such as Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, depending on the rate of national development. However, he says, China and India will see the fastest growth rates, with China increasing a five-million PC market and India a 2.5-million PC market by 1999.

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Microsoft OKs Net WebPages

Microsoft Corp. has decided to allow members to distribute some of its most popular titles over the Internet, a move some say could change how software is sold.

Beginning Oct. 16, several members, among them CyberSource Corp. of Menlo Park, California, will begin distributing 10 to 14 Microsoft programs over the Internet, including the e-mail Word, the Excel spreadsheet, and the PageMaker page-

the public network will take place on Oct. 18 at a news conference. Security First is scheduled to hold its New York.

The first two companies expect first-time results to promote the software as well as to attract customers' feedback/feedback and deposits.

Security First says it has plans to provide additional financial services, allowing its million customers to view and manage all of their financial affairs.

Subject to regulatory approval, the new system will include credit card and check payments, investment and savings plan management capabilities.

The bank's home page is located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.world.com>.

States Come to World Wide Web

U.S. governments in many states across New Jersey and Nevada have created home pages on the Internet's World Wide Web providing information ranging from tourism to business to tips on financial data.

A study by the Public Affairs Research Institute of New Jersey last year found that home page creation is growing at an average rate of 100 percent, and electronic services to state agencies and educational institutions.

Business writer Evan Ramstad of the Associated Press says government agencies have been attracted to the Internet by new expenses and the relative ease of creating information there, the same selling point that has moved Web usage among businesses and individuals to explode in the last year.

US Banker Eyes Hays

Indian maker US Bankette Corp. is considering a bid to buy rival Hays Microcomputer Products Inc.

The firm has India offices with the U.S. Bankette Corp. in Atlanta to modify the rules for trading on Indian Hays.

"US Bankette is not a 100 percent owned by Hays," Bankette reports. "But does not want to compete with a company that requires more capital efforts to be at least 25 million more than the Indian Bankette System Inc.'s bid of \$1.5 billion."

First Internet Bank Set to Debut

Security First Network Bank (SFNB) reports that it will make banking history by opening the first full-service bank on the Internet.

The Atlanta-based institution says customers will be able to make deposits, pay bills and transfer accounts 24 hours a day seven days a week. The first transaction is expected to occur on Oct. 16.

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- Intel Pentium 90 MHz Processor
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- Mouse & Keyboard
- 3.5" 104MB Video Card
- Hard Drive/CD-ROM Drive

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- 1.44 MB Internal Data/Fax Modem
- Deluxe Speakers
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- Monitor Extra
- MS-DOS 5.0
- Windows 95 upgrade included



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- Intel® Atom™ P5500 Chip Set Architecture
- 256MB Enhanced Local Cache
- 880MHz Video 12.5MP RAM up to 1GB
- 1.4A88M Floppy Drive
- Western Digital® 80GB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Enhanced IDE Controller
- 2x1550 UART Serial, 1 Bi-Directional Parallel
- ATI Mobility™ PCI Windows Accelerator
- 1MB DRAM (Compatible to 2MB)
- Award-Winning 15" Sapphire IVGA Monitor
- 17" Mini Size Tower Case with power supply
- 101-keys Enhanced Keyboard & Mouse
- Two Days Free & Unconditional Warranty



P90MHz	\$2065
P100MHz	\$2105
P120MHz	\$2435
P133MHz	\$2570

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\$1189

- 100MHz PCI Main Board
- 256MB External PCMCIA Cache
- 4MB+ 70ns 120pin SRAM w/sg. to 128MB
- 1 64MB Poppy Drive
- Western Digital 4054MB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Enhanced IDE Controller
- 2x16MHz 16MB SDRAM 1 to 8-Directional Pointer
- 16-bit Video PCI Windows Accelerator with 1MB SDRAM (expandable to 2MB)
- 14" Scintex SVGA 15" Monitor
- 15" Slim Case Tower/Case with power supply
- 121-key Enhanced Keyboard and 2 Mouse
- Two Floppy Ports & Laptop Wireless



486DX2-80MHz	\$1190
486DX4-100MHz	\$1245
486DX4-133MHz	\$1265

- Intel Atom PCL Chip Set Architecture
- 256KB External Fast Cache
- 960B - 70m 120m SAM up to 100MB
- 1.468B Poppy Drive
- Marvell Digital 500MB Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Enhanced IDE Controller
- 2x1000 (USB) Serial, 1x-Directional Parallel
- AT Micro PCI Wireless Accesspoint with 1MB DRAM (expandable to 2MB)
- Award-Winning 750 Series (VGA) Monitor
- 17" Mid Size Tower Case with power supply
- 102-Key Enhanced Keyboard & Mouse
- Creative Labs Value PC to CD includes 8MB CD to CD-ROM Drive, 8MB Speakers, 11 CD Burner, Audio Utility



P90MHz	\$2455
P100MHz	\$2495
P120MHz	\$2625
P133MHz	\$2845

100

\$1.40

- **82445** PCI Motion Board
- **2 GB** Enhanced RAM Cassette
- **4MB** - 70ns 72Pin RAM exp. to 1GBMB
- **1 44MB** Floppy Drive
- **Western Digital 650MB** Enhanced IDE Hard Drive
- **PCI Enhanced IDE Controller**
- **2x16MB** UART Board, 1 Bi-Directional Parafied
- **16MB** 286 PCI Windows Accelerator with 1MB DRAM Resizable to 2MB
- **14" XGA VGA 14" Monitor**
- **1" Hot-Swape Tower Case** with power supply
- **1 3.5" floppy drive** (optional) **1 3.5" CD-ROM** (optional)
- **Creative Labs Value C32** 2x4 includes SBL1 Card
- **2x CD-ROM Drives, Stereo Speakers, 12 Software**

486DX2-80MHz	\$1465
486DX4-100MHz	\$1520
486DX4-120MHz	\$1540

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| 4MB RAM | 4MB RAM |
| 1.44MB Floppy | 1.44MB Floppy Drive |
| 430MB Hard Drive | 430MB Hard Drive |
| 1MB Local Bus Video | 1MB Local Bus Video |
| Keyboard & Mouse | Keyboard & Mouse |
| CD-ROM | CD-ROM |
| DOS/Windows | 16 BIT Sound Card |
| 14" VGA Color Monitor | Open Data/Fax Modem |

\$849.00

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Available On Campus

Burnaby Location:
Unit 231 Student Association Center
BCIT 3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2
Tel: (604) 454-0388
Fax: (604) 454-0083

Association
On Risk and

Richmond location:
Unit 110-11100 Bridgeport
Richmond, B.C. V6X 1T2
Tel: (604) 276-8898
Fax: (604) 276-9188

Critic's Choice

United States	
Alabama	1,000,000
Alaska	1,000,000
Arizona	1,000,000
Arkansas	1,000,000
California	1,000,000
Colorado	1,000,000
Connecticut	1,000,000
Delaware	1,000,000
District of Columbia	1,000,000
Florida	1,000,000
Georgia	1,000,000
Hawaii	1,000,000
Idaho	1,000,000
Illinois	1,000,000
Indiana	1,000,000
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Utah	1,000,000
Vermont	1,000,000
Virginia	1,000,000
Washington	1,000,000
West Virginia	1,000,000
Wisconsin	1,000,000
Wyoming	1,000,000

Foreign Countries	
Canada	1,000,000
Mexico	1,000,000
Central America	1,000,000
Caribbean	1,000,000
South America	1,000,000
Europe	1,000,000
Africa	1,000,000
Asia	1,000,000
Oceania	1,000,000

Other Territories	
Puerto Rico	1,000,000
Guam	1,000,000
Virgin Islands	1,000,000
Samoa	1,000,000
Tonga	1,000,000
Fiji	1,000,000
Vanuatu	1,000,000
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Strong

Pentium® PCI Bus

PC-75 \$1950 PC-95 \$2100 PC-100 \$2250

Intel® Ultra Channel, Plug and Play Ready

28MB external cache

8043 A444 (33 Pin)

1 GBASE (5.1) Front Side Bus

80486 Chipset (80, 80486)

PCI Enhanced VME Controller (optional) and 4 IDE devices

3.3V 5000 Series 4 Pentium Ports

all based on PCI time (all writing mode)

100MHz Pentium, Color Monitor (256K, 256, 1, 2)

100MHz Pentium, Color Monitor (256K, 256, 1, 2)

100MHz Pentium, Color Monitor (256K, 256, 1, 2)

100MHz Pentium, Color Monitor (256K, 256, 1, 2)

486 PCI® Bus

486S04-100 \$1450 486S04-100 \$1550

80486 Cache

80486 Cache (75Pin)

1 GBASE (5.1) Front Side Bus

80486 Chipset (80, 80486)

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your hard drive or converting disk read data, while getting slower performance, taking 10, 7, 5, 3, or 2.5 ms. (I chose the medium performance option, but on my 486-48, with an other double speed CD-ROM, a new test option would).

It starts up with an attractive opening screen complete with background music, but there seems to be no way to jump quickly to the main screen, and of my first mistakes was with an otherwise well-designed product. The basic interface gives you a toolbar down the side, with a main menu right into three parts: top left, a multi-media window, for graphics, charts, tables, or videos. Below that, there's a search window—allowing for searches of all content, or just among articles, pictures, movies, sounds, or tables. The right-hand half of the screen shows the actual text, along with icons for other media objects. Unlike some other encyclopedias, you can scroll quickly through the text, because it doesn't map to show the picture (the) where you actually click on them. Each of these windows can be enlarged, and the user can print or scroll or graphics, or copy them to the clipboard. You can also set bookmarks, enabling you to quickly find that spot again.

Users of your encyclopedias will be used to searching for information by article title, and maybe by using an index. Compton's adds new ways to find information—articles often include hyperlinks to other, related articles. Articles can point to a spot on one of two timelines—one for world history, another just for the US, and the timeline is linked back to articles. Teachers often encourage students to make observations or bubble-charts, to see what how ideas are linked. Compton's uses a similar idea in its timeline view. A Topic Tree can take you from a general topic, to increasingly specific sub-topics, again showing how knowledge is related. Double-clicking on an icon on an atlas map takes you directly to the article describing that place.

Another nice feature is the Editing Room—allowing a user to build a multimedia presentation using drawings, graphics, sounds, and video from the encyclopedia with other computer-based sources. It's easy to build a large adding encyclopedia bookmarks, links to other sources, and user-generated slide screens. With a sound card and microphone, you can even record your own narration.

A new feature is Explorer, the bidirectional advice takes you your

choice of half a dozen 'rooms'—Compton's Area, a Music Room, Newsroom, nature adventure, Fantasy Room, or space ship. In each case, there's lots to explore and learn.

The encyclopedia also offers links to on-line services—you can connect directly from the encyclopedia to content from Compton's Living Encyclopedia for continuously updated information, games, and other links. Software and a trial offer for America Online are on the CD, but it can also be configured to use with other online services.

The article in Compton's are not as detailed as their equivalents on Encarta or OnLine's—my daughter has a grade 5 science project on the planet Venus. When she printed out the article on Venus (planet) in Encarta, she got four pages plus pictures. Looking up Venus in Compton's, she was able to check Solar System (I don't know why it couldn't have done the cross-referencing automatically). The article included better articles than Encarta's on such planets—about two pages when she printed it out. Not only is the information less detailed, the vocabulary is also simpler.

This is not necessarily a bad thing—if you have a child in the older elementary years or junior high, you're the better off with something like this, that can be read and understood than a product with a higher intellectual level that's more likely to stay on the shelf. And with the low price of these products, if your child outgrows it, you can afford to replace it.

Compton's suggests (PC variants), that users have a 486/485 or better, with at least 4 megs of ram. The 1999 edition runs under either Windows 3.1 or Windows 95, supporting World's CD-Autopsy capability—letting a user up as soon as it's placed in the CD player.

I'd highly recommend it for parents and students, grades 4-8. □

About the author: *Alise Hinton* is a teacher and an associate editor of *Computer Player*. She can be reached at alison@california.com.

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waggle from the increased pressure on each parent. Is that enough to justify today's three, six, or seven year old? My three year old put it this way: "I feel sad if you move."¹²

Booster Babin's Two postcards are advanced thinking games, involving concentration, pattern recognition, and a dash of computer word games. While the skills being honed are not related and piecemealed, the activities are not very tedious, and a little fun to boot. **Age:** The *Alphabets* section is particularly a breeze for anyone with any sense of language, not necessarily genius and likely to fascinate rather than bore. The word-mixed section will be a stretch for the child of nine, with lots of guess work among pictures and words, but that the bulk of the computer game is less-difficult. **Age:** 10 and up. **Effort required:** None, and not much payoff. **What is missing:** In the genre of the Learning Company's Super Software series, which was all of these reading skills in such compelling game situations, so that the practice goes, almost unnoticed.

Modestly: It's there, presents the player with the opportunity to identify and sort information about the wing covers of white, what when, where, and how. And *Australian* draws its statistics in the subject and verbs in a sentence. The CIG-RULES makes good use of digital speech to make sentences not least. The entire program takes in the look and feel of a newspaper, as a local newspaper. When all of the state status games are completed, the child is then offered the chance to read the press book. It makes up his own status using suggested phrases, or words that are typed into the story directly, and status printed out. It is the *Newsroom* as you can put for one class from the screen. Everything that has been presented, and multiple-choice

A very unexpected aspect of *Bandersnatch* Three was the time needed to get from the opening screen to the main menu, and then to any of the games chosen from the main screen. On my 486 DX2-5, with 80-megabyte of ram, it took 3 minutes and 50 seconds from the start of the game to give us the first meeting activity (I remember, I thought, I remember! Same thing. How many non-Pentium users are going to sit at the front main screen to achieve a meeting now?)

Now that is that, the Learning Company has produced some absolute gems of innovative educational programs. *Children's Writing and Publishing Center*, *Challenges of the Ancient Empires*, and *Operations Neptune* are just a few that these Pioneer Rabbit programs are a pleasure to use. When compared with the recent use of the EDS-RSBI format,

[illegible]

By Brookland in their *Julius Meade* series, for example, you have to wonder at the maddest events, the poor drawing, the flow-into-transformation, and the unfathomably long running spreads in the Reader Rabbit (121-82364). And I keep wondering about the nature of the narrative. Brookland is quoted from other companies like Math Blaster, Number Mania, Word Whizzer, and Grammar and Cadence, there are a number of built-in links that draw children to pursue specific goals, giving them real school work to do along the way. Reader Rabbit games seem to both do the same something that suits the pace of repetitive word matching, and algorithmically, subtly encourages through their pace. So

"Oh yes, one more thing. Be prepared for a burst of high-pressure Learning Company marketing, at the end of every game. Keep your finger on the escape key. That, by the way, isn't complaint. Besides, who cares? Not me!" I think that really Roder Rader is laughing all the way. ☐

[illegible]

The Learning Company
8400 Kaiser Drive
Fremont, California 94555
1-800-843-3288

About the author: David Anderson is a successful elementary teacher/pastor of two children. He can be reached by email andersondave@att.net.





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LanTastic

— Great system for small networks struggles to find its place in the shadow of Windows

Product Information

Product: LanTastic 4
Publisher: Artisoft Inc.
 3000 N. Forbes Blvd
 Tucson, AZ 85748 USA
 1-800-233-8884
 fax 520-233-7191
<http://www.artisoft.com>
Listprice: \$119.95 (us) for 1 node, \$499.95 for five nodes

Alan Zisman

You're just as fed a little weary for Artisoft. For years, their LanTastic Network Operating System, now in version 4.0, has been the best-selling example of a small network—a network for small businesses, schools, even homes—anyone with from two to two dozen or so machines to tie together, but not needing the expense and complication of a big, server-based network like Novell NetWare.

Timing together over 2.7 million machines last year, LanTastic has successfully survived competition from competing giant Novell, who clearly aimed their Lie vane at the small networks that have been LanTastic's strength.

LanTastic version 4.0 is a bigger program than the previous version, which runs on a single 1/2" floppy. It adds Windows 3.11 systems and installations, accounting for much of the added bulk. Installing LanTastic, you can choose to set up each machine as either a Server or a Workstation—Servers share their drives, and optionally resources such as printers, across the network. Workstations can use resources on servers, but do not share their own resources. A simple network could set each machine as a server, but setting up a

machine that only requests a larger DOS 3.86 file than setting it up as a workstation. In other cases, the size required is relatively small, compared to other networks.

Because you can set each machine up to share files and other resources with the network, LanTastic is an example of a peer-to-peer network. This is in contrast to the big networks, such as NetWare, that have a dedicated file server, which provides services to a large number of peer-to-peer clients.

LanTastic offers file sharing and easy sharing of printing, and CD-ROMs across the network, an obvious benefit for many small offices, and even some homes with multiple computers. In addition, it provides optional e-mail across the network, and scheduling. In a business environment, LanTastic mini-networks can be connected to Novell and Windows-based servers, as a sort of additional conventional run. In addition, there are strong security features—you can set up multiple levels of access, providing users different access to work, create, or modify files in different directories on the server's drives.

As well, it includes its share of file tools with word cards, for example, can record voice messages, and share across the network.



Both the Artisoft 4.0 change looks a lot to a stand for and paper customization.

While LanTastic is DOS-based, it works well under Windows 3.1, including a full collection of Windows utilities, both for controlling the network, and for email, scheduling, and other features.

Because LanTastic is used at small networks, primarily in smaller businesses, it has to be usable by companies that lack a trained and dedicated Network Manager, as you'll often find installing the big corporate networks. And a pretty much succeeds if you have no networking background, you really should look through the documentation before diving in and installing the software, but everything is pretty well explained, there's a "A User Guide to Everyday Networking", as well as a bigger

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Frequently Asked Questions:

Windows 95 Basic

Information from Microsoft Corp.

What happens if the power fails or if my computer restarts during Setup?

Windows 95 Setup has a feature called Safe Recovery. Depending on what Setup was interrupted, you may be asked to simply run your computer without making any new Setup changes, and choose Safe Recovery when you are prompted.

What do I do if Setup stops responding (hangs) while it is detecting the hardware in my computer?

If Setup hangs while it is detecting the hardware in your computer, turn your computer off and back on, run Setup again, and choose Safe Recovery when you are prompted.

What is Setup doing when I see the "Getting ready to run Windows 95 for the first time" screen?

After Setup starts your computer, it must complete the installation process. Setup accomplishes the following tasks while the "Getting ready to run Windows 95 for the first time" screen is displayed:

Setup processes the Windows 95 file and Windows 95 the various device drivers found in

the [Control\Ntldr] values of the Windows 95 file called Winnt32.exe. Comparing these values provides faster setup times.

• Setup creates all the files that were in use during the last portion of Setup. For example, Setup restores the C:\win12 temp files to C:\win95 and re-installs the Command.exe file to C:\command.com.

• Setup makes backup copies of the registry for troubleshooting purposes.

After these tasks are completed, Setup starts the Windows 95 graphical user interface (GUI) and completes the installation process by converting program groups, setting up the Help system, activating your Windows and time zone, and if I run Setup over an existing Windows 95 installation, I receive the following two options:

- Restart Windows (if any files changed)
- Copy all Windows files again

How do I make backup copies of my original Windows 95 disks before I install Windows 95?

Windows 95 disks are Distribution Media Format (DMF) disks and are not compatible with the MS-DOS COPY and DISKCOPY commands. The easiest backup copies of the Windows 95 disks.

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How do I install a feature of Windows 95 that I did not install originally?

If you need to add or install a Windows 95 component, use the Add/Remove Programs in Control Panel. On the Windows Setup tab, click the items you want to add or remove.

Setup seems to take just as long no matter which option I choose. Why?

Both of these options verify the validity of Windows 95 files. Verifying the Windows 95 files takes as long as an original installation because Setup must open each cabinet file to verify the Windows 95 files. Setup uses the Setuplog file to determine which files to check and make each good for work on "B." This method also rebuilds the Vmactl and file and directory any files with a last known location.

Why does Setup tell me I am running virus protection software when I cannot find any on my computer?

Some companies have built-in virus protection. If virus protection is installed on your computer's CMOS settings, Setup cannot continue. Please contact your hardware vendor for information about completely disabling the device.

Is there a way to remove Windows 95?

Yes. To do so, you must choose to save your computer's system files on the last disk during Setup. You cannot start the "uninstall" file on a network drive or floppy disk. To remove Windows 95, use these three steps:

1. Click the Start button, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.
 2. Double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.
 3. On the Installed hardware tab, click Windows 95, and then click Remove.
- You can also remove Windows 95 by running your computer with the Windows 95 Startup Disk and then typing "uninstall" (either at the question mark or at the command prompt).
- NOTE:** You are not prompted to save the system files during Setup if any of the following conditions apply:
- You are installing Windows 95 in an empty directory.
 - You are not running MS-DOS version 3.0 or later.
 - You are installing Windows 95 over itself.

I am not having any problems with Windows 95. How do I delete the "uninstall" files created by Setup?

To delete the "uninstall" files and free disk space, use these three steps:

1. Click the Start button, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.
 2. Double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.
 3. On the Installed hardware tab, click Windows 95, and then click Remove.
- Once you delete these files, you cannot use the Uninstall and to remove Windows 95.

Is there an Administrative Setup for network installations?

The /A and /N Setup switches have been replaced by the Setupmgr and the tool is available in the CD-ROM version of Windows 95. Network administrators can use the tool to set up a shared copy of Windows 95 files on a

server to set up local or shared Windows 95 installations. Users can also create custom scripts to automate the Setup process from the shared copy of Windows 95.

What versions of MS-DOS and Microsoft Windows can upgrade to Windows 95?

You can upgrade Windows version 3.0 or later, Windows for Workgroups version 3.1 or later, or MS-DOS or Windows 3.0 or later.

Can I install Windows 95 on a computer that dual-boots Windows NT and MS-DOS?

Yes. To install Windows 95 on a computer that dual-boots Windows NT and MS-DOS, start the computer in MS-DOS and run Setup either in Windows 3.1 or as an MS-DOS prompt. You cannot install Windows 95 in a directory with a shared Windows 3.1 and Windows NT file system. In this situation, you must install Windows 95 in a different directory.

If your computer boots Windows NT, you must reconfigure the computer to dual-boot MS-DOS and Windows NT and follow the instructions in the paragraph above. If you run the computer from an MS-DOS disk and then run Setup, you will no longer be able to boot Windows NT. However, you can restore Windows NT by starting the computer from the Windows NT Boot/Repair disk and then entering the Repair option.

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Can I install Windows 98 and still
keep MS-DOS and Windows 3.11?

Windows 95 supports, keeping the earlier version of the operating system. If you are using MS-DOS version 3.0 or later or (MS-DOS) 5.0-6.0 version 3.0 or later. You cannot boot any version of MS-DOS. When you boot Windows 95 in a new directory, being automatically make. Pre-configured support: as the computer use Windows 95 and MS-DOS.

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, "Wages and Salaries by Detailed Occupation, Sex, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, 1990-2000,"* <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm>.

If you install Windows XP in a new directory, you must reinstall all your Windows-based programs for them to run properly in Windows XP. If you upgrade your earlier version of Windows to Windows XP, you do not need to reinstall your Windows-based programs because Windows XP retains your software.

When I run Windows 95 Setup, in Windows 3.0, Setup tells me that it requires a newer version of Windows. How do I upgrade Windows 3.0?

To upgrade Windows 1.0 to Windows 3.0, run Setup from `MS-DOS` and choose to install Windows 3.0 in the same directory as Windows 1.0.

I upgraded my installed version of MS-DOS and Windows to Windows 95. How can I load my earlier version of MS-DOS?

Although you cannot use the student registration Windows, you can host the student version of MS-WORD. To do so, you do the following:

1. Type the following command at an **MS-DOS** prompt to remove the system, hidden, and read-only attributes of the **hidden.sys** file:

```
attrib -h -r -s hidden.sys
```
2. Use a text editor (such as **Notepad**) to edit the **Windows.sys** file and add the following text to the **[Options]** section of the file:

```
HiddenSys=1
```
3. Restart your computer and press **F4** at **F4** when you see the **Windows** logo.

NOTE: When you load an earlier version of MS-DOS, some of the MS-DOS commands may not work. This behavior exists because Windows 95 requires some MS-DOS utilities.

Can I install Windows 95 on a computer running IBM OS/2?

Rating does not mean OK! However, you can install Windows 95 on a computer running OS/2 if you back up OS/2 and run Setup from the bootable CD-ROM.

If you use GRC Host Manager to choose operating system at startup, note that Windows 95 Group disables Host Manager to ensure that it can restart the computer and complete the installation. You can re-enable Host Manager by running the PTHK tool that is shipped with Windows 95.

If you do not use ODBC Manager, you must configure your computer to use Event Manager and then follow the instructions above.

Does Windows 10 Setup work on a hard disk compressed with Stacker?

Yes, Windows 95 is compatible with Scandisk version 2.0 or later and with all versions of DefragmentSM. However, you must Defrag under Windows 95 at least 1 MB of free hard-disk space in the hard drive, as it tells if you can't permanently merge files. There is not enough free space neither hard drive, you must run a utility from the compression software's manufacturer to determine the amount of free hard-disk space in the hard drive.

Can I install Windows 98 on a hard disk partitioned with Cylix? (Mac)

Manager?
Yes. Windows 95 is compatible with Disk Manager and even provides a protected-mode driver for Disk Manager version 4.03 or later. If you use Disk Manager version 4.03 or later, Windows 95 automatically uses its protected-mode driver.

After I set up Windows 95, I cannot delete my CD-ROM drive. What do I do?

If your CD-ROM drive is not recognized by Windows 95, run the following steps:

1. Make sure the correct system-wide driver for the CD-ROM drive is installed and loaded.

This driver is normally shipped with the CD-ROM drive kit. If you do not have this driver, please contact the CD-ROM drive manufacturer.

[illegible]

1. Verify that the correct driver statement is in the Control set file, and that the driver statement specifies the correct path for the driver. For details about the specific driver statement for your CD-ROM drive, please consult the CD-ROM drive documentation or manufacturer.

2. Verify that Windows is installed in the Automatic file file, and that the Windows statement loads the Windows file from the Windows/Control folder. For information about the Windows statement setup, please consult the CD-ROM drive documentation or manufacturer.

4. Restart Windows 95.

What are the system requirements for installing Windows 95?

Your computer must meet these minimal requirements:

- Computer: 386PC, 386 Plus (or higher) processor
- Memory: 4 MB (8 MB recommended); 8 MB is required to run The Microsoft Exchange, or multiple 32-bit programs

1. Hard disk: 20 to 50 MB of available hard disk space. The actual space required depends on whether you are upgrading to Windows 95 and the Setup options you choose.

• Video: VGA or higher resolution (VGA recommended)

• Peripheral: High-resolution floppy disk drive, CD-ROM drive, or the ability to install from a network server

• Printing: Device. Microsoft Internet or compatible printing device.

Upgraded to Windows 95, and now I can't run programs in Windows 95? How do I run programs in Windows 95?

All of your Windows 95 programs groups are mounted and containing most of the Start menu in Windows 95. To run your programs in Windows 95, click the Start button, point to Programs, point to the group containing the program you want to run, then click the program's icon. Sometimes you need to click the program icon only once to start the program, you can also click to keep it running in the background.

Type want to run the program in Windows 95, you can click the Start button, click the type "program" (without the quotation mark) in the Open box, and then press ENTER. Note that Program Manager does not use long filenames.

How do I add or remove Windows 95 components?

To add or remove Windows 95 components, use this step:

1. Click the Start button, point to Settings, and then click Control Panel.
2. Double-click the Add/Remove Programs icon.
3. Check the Windows Setup tab, and then follow the instructions on the tab.

A friend has a version of Windows 95 that includes more features than my version. Why does my version not have the same features?

Windows 95 is available in CD-ROM and floppy disks. More components are included in the CD-ROM version than in the floppy version available in the CD-ROM. To obtain the CD-ROM Edition for Windows 95 upgrade to

3.5-inch high-density disks, get the original installation for Windows 95 upgrade. You can also download the CD-ROM Edition for Windows 95 upgrade from the Internet at www.microsoft.com. For more information about downloading the CD-ROM Edition for Windows 95 upgrade, please see the Drivers file in Windows 95.

How do I copy a floppy disk in Windows 95?

Use the following steps to copy a floppy disk:

1. Double-click My Computer.
2. Use the right mouse button to click the floppy disk drive containing the disk you want to copy, and then click Copy. Disk is on the menu that appears.

3. In the Copy From box, click the drive containing the disk you want to copy. In the Copy To box, click the drive containing the disk you want to copy to, and then click Disk.

What is a shortcut, and how do I add one to the Start menu?

A shortcut is a link to an object (such as a program or document). An shortcut can point to a file on your computer or a file on a network server. A shortcut can be assigned to a paragraph in a document. To add a shortcut to the Start menu, use the following three steps:

1. Use the right mouse button to click the desktop, and then click Properties on the menu that appears.
2. In the Start Menu Programs tab, click Add, and follow the instructions.

For more information about creating shortcuts, click the Start button, click Help, click the Index tab, and search for "shortcuts."

What is Microsoft Paint for Windows 95?

Microsoft Paint for Windows 95 is a software package that includes many add-ons for Windows 95 such as:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer (to surf the Internet)
- Dial-Up Networking Service (to allow computers on dial in to your computer)
- New Windows desktop compression
- 3D Paint

• Drawing Tables (to use as pen-and-ink style drawing with wallpapers, notes, and screen savers)

How can I view two drives at one time as I did using File Manager in Windows 95?

To view two drives in Windows 95, open two instances of Windows Explorer or My Computer.

How do I create or modify file associations in Windows 95?

To create, modify, or remove the associations, use the following three steps:

1. Double-click My Computer.
2. On the View menu, click Options.
3. Click the File Types tab. To create a file association, click New Type. To modify file associations, click the file type in the list. To remove an association, click the file type without a checkmark.

When you double-click a file type without a checkmark, Windows 95 opens a dialog box so you can create an association if you want.

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PC Survival Guide

So you've bought that new computer ...

NOW WHAT?

Alan Zisman

So you've bought that new computer. Now what?

Even though, for many families, a computer is one of the biggest purchases they'll make... not on a scale with the house or the car, but a bigger name like

less, it can be a disappointing experience. And in too many cases, it can end up in the closet, or a glorified games machine... at its core the end of a Super Nintendo.

How can you avoid these disappointing?

By having realistic expectations about your new purchase, and by taking the time to learn to use it.

That Out of Box Experience

Today you can buy a computer in a department store or an office or electronics superstore... just across from home stores, refrigerators, and toaster ovens. The salesperson will have been selling home appliances just last week. Unfortunately, even though they are being marketed like appliances, computers aren't quite that easy to use. There are reasons why there are computer user groups, but no toaster user groups (at least that I know of).

Still, computer manufacturers have tried to work on the "Out of Box Experience"... you can buy a computer, get it home, and find that it can be set up and turned on, all without requiring an advanced engineering degree. This has always been true for Macintosh models, and is increasingly the case with the more common, but more complex, PCs. Even the latest, are typically coming with plugs and cables that can only be inserted one way, and with software pre-installed. It should be possible to set it up, turn it on, and have a series of icons appear, showing what software is available, ready to work.

Before you go any further, take a quick inventory. Make a list of what you got—hardware and software. Note manufacturers, model, and serial numbers. Did you get original floppy disks and manuals for your system software (like OS, or DOS and Windows), and for any applications pre-installed on your hard drive? Some manufacturers, in order to save a few dollars, don't give you original floppy disks, but give you manuals—in some cases, there is often a program on the hard drive to let you make backup copies of the software onto floppy disks. Use a—hard drive fail, and you'll be grateful for the backup utilities. If you don't have manuals for your software, you may not have legitimate copies, which could pose problems later on if you try to get technical support or upgrade to a newer version.

Some stores offer multimedia displays of shareware on your hard drive. Shareware programs are free for you to try out, or to copy, and share with your friends. Be aware that if you want to keep using shareware programs, you are expected to register with the program's creator, paying a registration fee. You'll notice that many shareware programs will nag you, either when you start or when you close them—and you do register.

Make That New Printer Work for You

In most cases, the first technical problem you'll have in this will be calling your computer what sort of printer is attached. If you have Windows 95, and a recent printer model, it may be able to find out this information for itself—but otherwise, in your computer has no way of knowing what sort of printer you're using unless you tell it. By printing with the wrong information, and you may find pages of meaningless symbols and text spewing out of your printer.

In the old DOS days, you had to do this separately for each piece of software installed. Now with Windows, or as a Macintosh, you only have to do this once... and your software will be able to make use of the information in Windows, double-click on the latest program group, and look for the icon that says Control Panel. Double-click on it.

If phrases like "double-click" and "look" are meaningless to you, find a child—they all intuitively understand these concepts.

Control Panel will open up, showing another window full of icons. Find the one labeled Printer, and double-click on it. (Use a—double-clicking opens up an icon, naming a program) It will give you a "Dialog box"—a standard way for your computer to get information from you. You may be very lucky, and not your actual make and model of printer listed on the top left corner, or the "default" printer that will be used unless you say otherwise. More likely, no printers are listed there, or some random, uninstalled model. If so, click once on the bottom labeled Add. (Use, there is some logic in this process, at least some of the time).

This will get you another box, with a list of several hundred printer makes and models, listed alphabetically. Intuitively, your model will be far down the list, out of sight. Time to practice a new skill, manipulating "mouse" (On the right-hand edge of the list, you'll see a



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Inside

- Accessing the Internet
- Choosing an Internet Provider
- Detailed Internet Diagram
- Flat Rate Access vs. Metered Access
- Internet Facts



Page 1

QUICK INTERNET FACTS

- **Internet use:** 1994, 10 million users; 2000, 100 million users; military department is creating a tagged distribution system to distribute sensitive sites.
- In the early '90s researchers and scientists start to discover social uses for their expertise, and create programs for their own personal communications.
- During the '90s and '80s groups and individuals other than government begin to own powerful computers and are able to access the existing networks.
- At the same time, smaller computer networks in other countries begin to link up, and the "network of networks" starts to look more like the Internet we now know.
- In the late '80s and early '90s widespread knowledge of the Internet like the media, individuals and groups join the Internet phenomenon at an increasing rate.
- Over 100 research are conducted to the Internet by 1995.
- At present, no one knows the exact number of Internet users but estimates vary to 40 million, with one million new users joining each month.

THE INTEREST

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- [illegible]

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The quality of the customer service you receive will reflect the reliability of your connection to the Internet. The speediness of your Internet connection depends on your hardware, and you should use the services a business can provide.

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- A Windows PC with

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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SOFTWARE

As your local computer retailer, you will find a range of software packages, most notably Internet Access Kit. These programs are an easy way to access the Internet. (Internet Direct provides and delivers full-service software packages free of charge to manufacturers. Internet Direct provides

- [Thompson-Wilkinson, section 322 revision II](#)
- [SPE FTP released June 14, 1990](#)
- [Bentley version 1.1.0](#)
- [SPE 520 Issues: Using Windows \(Pills, David\)](#)
- [Thompson-Wilkinson, section 1.10](#)



[illegible]

Maybe even you should take stock and think about what you hope to accomplish with your new tool.

How I Got Some Software for Free

Almost everyone with a computer uses it for word processing. What else do you hope to use it for? Bookkeeping, for home or a small business? Checking out the much-typed Internet or other on-

line resources? Creating artwork or page designs for brochures or posters? Keeping track of expenses, inventory, sales? Playing games?

Computer use multi-purpose machines—they can perform multiple functions, depending on the software that is loaded. Often, computer owners find themselves collecting software, or even, perhaps regrettably, to make sure they

always have the latest—and potentially greater. This isn't always necessary, and can involve unwanted expense, as well as making sure that you never really learn to do anything very well.

A simpler, less expensive program may be more efficient than the "biggest and the best" in any given product category—in many cases, there are loaded with lots of extra functions that, if you

don't need them, make the program bigger, slower, and more complex (as well as more expensive). Many spreadsheets, home, and small business users will find, for example, that one of the strongest "Work"-type packages provides all the word processing power they need, as well as basic spreadsheet and database functions—all at a fraction of the cost (and hard drive space) of one of the major "dinos"—and lots more of power-packed word processors, spreadsheets, and more.

As well, simple home finance packages, such as the widely popular Quicken, may provide all the bookkeeping help an individual will need (though a business will probably need something more formally structured according to accounting principles—Quicken's owner, QuickenBooks may do the trick).

Help! Help!

Recently, as you try to use software, you're going to have questions, some of us have more questions, sooner, than others. How to get help? The best way is going to be different for each of us—we all learn in different ways. And at some ways, it's become harder to get help, while in others, it has become easier. Here are some options:

— ask a friend. People with computer skills (like people who own small trucks) find they are always in demand, with friends and acquaintances wanting assistance. For many of them, this has become quite a bother—if you are asking for help, be prepared to pay up with some amount of grooming, and offer some sort of reward—food, particularly chocolate is almost always appreciated.

— read a book. Software traditionally comes with manuals, which are typically ignored by users. (A slight irony: the computer itself, in its self service to "READ" Read the [Something Manual].) Often, that's because software manuals are virtually unreadable, unless you already know so much that you don't need to read the manual. (d) DOS manuals were classics of this sort. Indeed, a huge segment of the publishing industry has become devoted to helping people with computers. Recently, books with names like " " for Dummies", " " for Idiots" (most your software came in the black) have become widely popular, combining advice for beginners with jokes and cartoons. Surprisingly, these books can be quite effective, even if the cartoons are frequently dumb.

Recently, many software manufacturers have started providing free and free printed documentation, both in case some, and because they rightly expect

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that mini users spent the month, anyway. In some cases, you'll save that a dime. Getting *Stard*® guide is the best—which may be more valuable than an old-style manual. Or some or all of the documentation may be on a CD-ROM or installed onto your hard drive. Try clicking on the menu and labeled Help, in your program, and use what's available.

— run a tutorial. Some of us can't learn very well from a book, more often aimed at dummies. Some of us, however, can learn by practicing on the computer. Here are more programs include some sort of on-line help. If available, this will probably be accessed from that same Help menu. Give it a try—some people find a very useful.

Other companies offer software as even video cassettes, with more tutorials that are included with the program. In some cases, you can even find some of these in your public library.

— take a class. Several boards, including colleges, universities, and several private companies have found that they can offer a wide range of computer and software night-school classes. Make sure, however, that you sign up for a class that is appropriate to your needs. I know a couple who bought a computer, and immediately signed up for a community college's introductory class, only to find themselves learning to convert numbers into binary and hexadecimal (base 16) notation, when they actually wanted to learn about how to use their word processor. Make sure that the class you take includes hands-on experience working with the software that you want to learn.

— join a users group. Many communities, and even some companies and organizations, have volunteer users groups. These may be large and generalised, such as Vancouver's massive PC Users' Group, or smaller, focusing on a special interest: plain of hardware or software. Group meetings often include opportunities for the users to help one another. (And users group members often get discounts on buying hardware or software.)

— phone the company. Support from companies is becoming harder and harder to get. Companies have found that it is a major cost, and one that they are trying to cut back on. A few years ago, many companies provided unlimited free phone support, in some cases, with 1-800 numbers. The 1-800 numbers are almost all gone, and unlimited free support is disappearing. Instead, most companies offer limited time free support (often 90 days from your first phone call). And be prepared to spend a long time on hold (in your long-distance expense) waiting to speak to a support person. Instead, companies are offering a variety of pay-for-support plans, ranging from 1-800 toll-free phone calls, to prepaid plans providing support over a longer period of time.

In place of spending to a technical support person, many companies are expanding alternatives—free feedback-on-line, for example, where you phone an automated system that feeds you a document listing to one of a number of common questions, are increasingly popular. For an company run phone-on bulletin board service to get software is a solution and, from Mono and more computers are also using

the Internet as a way to distribute technical advice, ranging from sending e-mail to a technician, to getting documents and software.

Inevitably, most of us learn something (in whatever style works best for us), when there's a mission—you're more likely to learn to use your word processor, when you have some project that you want to write. I learned to use a spreadsheet one Spring Break after someone suggested I could use one to manage my class marks.

And here's the key—computers are a powerful tool, but only a tool. Use one when you have a need for it, and you'll be motivated to find a way to use it successfully. If you get one without a clearly-defined need, it's too easy to become frustrated, and end up with an expensive collection of boxes in the basement. □

About the author: Alan Zimmer can be reached at e-mail: alan_zimmer@compuserve.com



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Good CD-ROM producers wear many hats

Philip Hyams

If you're familiar with PCs, you're probably aware of the phenomenal impact which CD-ROM technology is making today in the computer field. A CD-ROM looks exactly like an audio CD, but the similarity stops there. A CD-ROM can store not only audio, but also video, computer data, photographs and animations. This makes CD-ROMs ideal for multimedia programs. One can suppose a CD-ROM drive today for about \$150.00. The past year has seen an incredible number of CD-ROM titles launched in the international marketplace, everything from games and education to productivity and training. Taking the others into consideration, we must also realize that the single most important factor in all of the changes taking place today in the realm of computer technology, is undoubtedly the human one.

Remarkably, there is a serious shortage of multimedia producers to meet the demands imposed by new technology developments. In an era of changing economies and revolutionary technology, the

profession of CD-ROM Producer, like to other, epitomizes the traditional "knowledge worker" talents required to successfully create and organize in this new age of cyber-borders and global marketing. Yet, there are still very few multimedia producers active in this remarkable and cutting edge field. I interviewed, Claudio Bonaldi of Microforum, Inc. - one of Canada's foremost interactive multimedia producers to find out why, but also to find out what the future may hold for all of us.

CP: Claudio, the words "multimedia" and "multimedia" are being used so frequently today, I wonder if people really are aware of what these terms mean? Could you define what a multimedia or CD-ROM producer is?

Claudio Bonaldi: Well, a multimedia producer is an individual that is competent in a wide variety of different technologies and art forms, a person who is able to combine many forms of technology and art into a coherent final product, made as an interactive CD-ROM.

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CP: Why are multimedia producers in such demand today?

Clinton: First of all, because of the recent boom in computer hardware and powerful game platforms, CD-ROM drives, optical cables and so on. Second is probably a position which only developed in the past few years due to the advent of multimedia technology. It is extremely difficult to find people who have experience in multimedia producers. There are individuals with experience in the various fields which multimedia encompasses, but usually, they are only qualified in one or two of the disciplines required to produce a successful multimedia product. So you see, it is hard to find that special someone with experience in the wide variety of fields which multimedia encompasses.

CP: How did you get started?

Clinton: My background includes programming, creative direction and marketing. In 1988, I joined forces with my father, and about four years ago had the opportunity to move MicroVision into multimedia production. At this time, it was a gamble but it paid off. Right now, MicroVision is the largest producer of CD-ROM products in Canada. A few years back, if someone had told me that I was going to end up with one of the toughest

jobs in the world, well, I wouldn't have believed that person. There's probably over 70 CD-ROMs from games to educational products and every genre, you name it instead of video. The fact is that the technology has expanded the creative process, and in order to realize a high-quality CD-ROM product, the multimedia producer must have the experience in the required fields for product creation.

CP: Why is it so difficult to be a multimedia producer?

Clinton: First of all, let me explain a bit about interactive multimedia technology. With a CD-ROM product, you are able to interact with a variety of different technologies such as Video, Animation, Graphics, Programming and Sound. It takes an exceptional individual to keep up with each different technology in order to get the most from it. For example, only a few years ago you could only play a small size video clip on your computer. Today, you can play full-size videos. In fact, the new television game we are about to launch, "Expect No Mercy", is using technology that did not even exist a few years ago. The technology is changing too fast. It's no task to keep up with it. So, you see, these things make the job of multimedia producers quite demanding.

(Continued on page 44)

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Database Developments

John Hartman

Visual FoxPro 3.0

Visual FoxPro 3.0 is the latest incarnation of Microsoft's version of these three (what is small "C" or otherwise, in "C") in the remarkable class of pc database languages. (FoxPro has always been

a fast and powerful desktop database management product in that category and the latest release is no exception. The new "Visual" interface makes tasks such as form design look fun and easy.

Visual FoxPro is a 386 program and you should probably avoid it if your data management needs are fire. FoxPro is overkill on small projects such as

tracking lists. If you have Windows and a 486 or better we would recommend Lotus Approach or Microsoft Access for these projects. Both products are easy to use and have sufficient depth should you become obsessed with the spreadsheet and patterns you are discovering in your data.

A Developer's Database

FoxPro is specifically designed with the developer in mind. The underlying assumption is that you will be writing programs for someone else to use, even if that someone is yourself, wearing a different hat. The Microsoft Fox team have completely redesigned FoxPro with this vision bringing developers the popular "Visual" interface, which is a Windows concept, significantly simplifies the process of application development.

If you are going lower level is learning to use this product you should be sure your clients are using DOS's or are prepared to upgrade. On a 386 your applications will run like molasses. Considering that most users expect instantaneous response this can be the kiss of death. On the other hand, even if you are continuing to develop in the DOS world it is reasonable that your clients are going to go Windows eventually. Visual FoxPro is an excellent place to start getting prepared for the switch.

Should I recommend further with about?

If you are an newcomer to database management with no interest in getting into programming, database data are several options are available. These products have been around for over 15 years. They have advantages in that there are a tremendous amount of resources out there that have built up over the years. But then there is a whole new generation of products such as Visual Basic, Delphi and Access. There is a tremendous impetus behind these new products and we suggest that newcomers

will be better off avoiding their data in learning one of those.

But for the thousands of developers who have years of experience in the classic language Visual FoxPro 3.0 is confirmation that the language will continue to be supported into the future and will continue to benefit from the latest developments in software engineering and technology.

This announcement was created not on a 486/66 with 16MB of RAM and was made with the Standard Edition of Visual FoxPro under Windows 95.

Visual FoxPro has been used to be unstable under Windows 3.1 and 3.11 so should only be used with Windows 95 or Windows NT.

Two editions

Visual FoxPro is distributed in two forms. The Standard Edition and the Professional Edition. The Professional Edition, for a couple of hundred more dollars, comes with a compiler, a couple of extra bells and whistles, and complete documentation.

Unfortunately the Standard Edition comes with sparse printed documentation. In particular, the Language Reference is missing. While it is included in the online help, the printed volume is really needed for serious study. One of the other things about often is that once you know the basic commands you can learn one command at a leisurely fashion. It is only by reading the Language Reference in your favorite chair that you can browse the commands you've never looked at before and say "myah!" when you discover an "I didn't know you could do THAT!"

Apart from the lack of a Language Reference we found the Standard Edition to be quite acceptable for our purposes. Of course if we were developing applications for clients we would use the Professional Edition since the compiler enables

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your users to use your application without having to purchase their own version of Visual FoxPro. And the production of a single use file makes it much easier to distribute your applications.

The Visual interface

If you have not taken a look at the new "visual" programming tools we will try to briefly explain how they work.

The common characteristics are a toolbar or toolbar that contains icons or pictures of common windows' components such as the check box, the scrollbar, the dialog box, scroll bar, command buttons etc.

Generally you start with a form in a window. By clicking on one of the icons in the toolbar you can then click on the form and drag the component on your form. For instance you may click on the command button icon and then click on your form to place a command button there.

The next step is to write some code to associate with the button, to tell it what to do. Usually, and in Visual FoxPro, if you click on the button when it design mode a text editing window will pop up where you will write your code. This will often be as simple as a one line command such as "DO update".

Each component has a myriad of properties which are displayed in a property window. Click on "background color" for instance to pop up a colour chart from which to select. "Click" and your command button in English!

Visual FoxPro 3.0 implements this so-called methodology in a fully typical manner it does it well and seems intuitive enough.

Object Orientation

Visual FoxPro has finally incorporated Object Oriented Programming (OOP) into its object language and the implementation is reasonably complete.

What is truly significant about the visual approach is that you really don't have to investigate the language constructs to use it. Objects are things like your light red command buttons. After you have customized a standard component you can save it in a class. You can then add that class to your toolbar and use the icon to put new light red command buttons throughout your application preserving your "look and feel". If you change the color of your base class button to green, all the command buttons will be green wherever they were used.

Objects are something like templates except that when you change the underlying object, all objects you copy from it now have these changes. This can have unexpected results. The default properties inherited from the parent ob-

ject can be over-ridden or changed in the child object.

Of course all the visual effects can be achieved or fine-tuned programmatically. It is also possible to create effects at run time that are not viable in design mode.

Events are also easy to program. The property list for each component lists all the available events such as GotFocus, KeyPressed, Click. One of the properties is the "VALID" function, when you click on that property a text editor window pops up where you can write code to check the entry for validity, was the date entered within a certain range? If the validity check fails the user isn't listed the toolbar and valid data is entered.

The grid component

The grid is the standard toolbar in a spreadsheet-like box or browser. Grid you can place on a form to display your information in rows and columns.

The grid component will probably be the most-used control of the bunch. It is very simple in conception but the variety of properties and methods associated with it and each of its sub-objects, the column, the header and the cells of each column in the grid is astounding. The process of customizing your grid can be truly obsessive.

The development of customized grids or browsers seems to be time-consuming but the ability to reuse and download new grids from a parent-type makes up for it many times over.

This is object-oriented programming made very easy.

Assessment

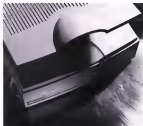
Visual FoxPro is an excellent addition to the choices now available to Windows database developers. It should also make an excellent product for people who want to make the transition from dBase-based programming to Windows.

Some of the interface components seem not quite finished. For instance the text editor lacks many features such as online-coded syntax. Perhaps the pressure to get product out forced release before it was ready. In any case, we found no serious reasons to wait for release. I thought we hope it will be soon.


Next month we hope to have initial impressions of Visual dBase, the other option in the share Windows world. ☐

About the author: John Danner is a consultant and database application developer at *Centrade Consultants*, Tel. 213-813-9100. e-mail: John.Danner@ibmworld.net

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New Employment Standards Act Will Affect Your Business

Richard K. Acton

The new Employment Standards Act comes into effect this fall. The new Act replaces the old Act and will have an impact on all businesses in British Columbia.

Who and What is Covered

The Act has expanded the categories of

employees covered. Many people who were not included in the past are now covered under the Act. The following categories, among the largest, now direct, contractors and distributed employees. The Act was not extended to govern professionals or independent contractors. The independent contractors issue was a particular concern at the time the legislation was being drafted and it is fortunate, I believe, that it was not extended to them.

The work included has been expanded and new categories were preformed as an employee's home. Consequently, an employee who works on his computer at home in the evening, may be classified as a resident.

As an employer, you must post your notices. These notices will include a statement of the employee's rights under

the Act, shall include, a copy of the Employment Standards regulations and any variance orders.

Don't Forget the Paper

In spite of the politicians continuing promise to reduce the paper burden, that new legislation will increase it. The purposes of the Employment Standards Act, you will now be required to keep the following records for three years:

- all payroll records
- approval of flexible work weeks
- adherence of an alternate statutory holiday
- representations by employees for communications in writing and topics of change.

Further, employers must be given a detailed wage statement not later than 10 days after the end of the month there has been a change in pay.

Again, in keeping with a philosophy of increased bureaucracy and paper flow employers must now provide the details of employment standards with information to enable them to pay to establish and maintain a register of employees in private businesses. At this point in time it is not clear whether this will affect employees' residences or employees' residences or both.

Some Flexibility

The details of employment standards have greater power in great variations within the regulations. It is also must be noted that any variations in decisions with the legislation and that a majority of the employees affected approval of the request. The following variations may now be requested under the Employment Standards Act:

- payroll
- special clothing
- notice of change in shift
- minimum study hours
- maximum working hours
- hours off
- variable wages for employees not on a flexible work schedule
- notice requirements and termination pay requirements for group terminations
- the time period required for a company lay-off

Change in Holiday

Statutory holiday pay will now be provided. Under the previous Act, an employee had to work 93 of the previous 90 calendar days in order to be paid for the statutory holiday. This has been eliminated and now an employee on the payroll will be paid for the statutory holiday on a previous basis, regardless of the hours worked.

Some cases being legislated are largely common sense and accepted rules by the majority of employers without legislation. However, for those with a more-up-to-date that need to pay the 20th century, the employee has the following requirements under the new legislation:

- up to 3 days of unpaid off leave during each employment year in total with maximum pay-ment in the year, benefits as minimum of a child in an employee's care or the care or health of any other member of the immediate family
- up to 3 days of unpaid off leave on the death of a member of the employee's immediate family
- leave of absence in total over a year and to maintain the same or more probable periods.

The employee's employment in vacation, termination notice and benefits will continue during any of the above leave.

From the employee's point of view, one of the biggest may be that those employees who were paying for the above leave may now claim to do so as unpaid leave at the present time are the most.

The Act no longer has a provision allowing an employer to force a pregnant woman to go on

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Apple Financial Chief Quits

Joseph A. Condit is leaving as Apple Computer Inc.'s chief financial officer by the end of the year. He is stepping down, he says, "due to differences in opinion with the CEO."

Apple's board of directors reaffirmed its full support for President/CEO Michael J. Spindler during a regularly scheduled meeting of the board on Oct. 1.

Apple Chairman J.C. (Jack) Markkula said at the same meeting, "The board will continue working with Spindler to address the challenges and ongoing opportunities we face in the dynamic personal computer industry. This unprecedented demand for our new products demonstrates the growing appeal of the Macintosh platform. We are committed to actively working with the management team of Apple under Spindler's leadership to create value for our shareholders."

Apple said in a statement that Condit's resignation was provided and that financial officer, mentioned his intention to resign as a director effective immediately and leave the company by year end.

On the situation, the Associated Press comments, "Due to a number of earnings, Apple has been unable to keep up with rising demand for its new Power Macintosh line, which was supposed to boost its lagging market share for personal computers. A shortage of parts and delayed introduction of demand raised speculation that the company's financial results could be significant enough to cause changes in its management."

The new server line sales, "While Spindler has rejected Markkula's support and has been confident with his engineering the results at the Power Macintosh line, some observers have noted that Apple's board might have been more than a year ago in a state of crisis, and doubts about the company's future."

AP quotes Der Spiegel Inc. figures in evaluating Apple's share of the two Macintosh markets — which fell from 5.4 percent in 1990 to 3.3 percent last year — has dropped to 7.4 percent in the current quarter.

Some Apple Hardware May Be Sold

Apple Computer Inc. is taking measures to limit the company's market as it is forced to sell part of its hardware in order to focus on more competitive areas.

The New York Times is reporting, quotes Apple CEO Michael Spindler as saying, "There are crucial decisions that are going to have to be made about selling part of some parts of a business that are quite unconvincing to some people including ourselves."

Spindler indicated reports Apple is seeking to merge with another company, reorganizing itself to concentrate with IBM and other computer companies had taken place, but that no decisions had been made. "The key question is how we will meet together" he said.

Spindler told the paper his company has made money, but that it will become increasingly profitable. An expected Apple report this year has production margin and undistributed demand for its Power PC line of computers.

Said Spindler "This has been the most difficult quarter in the history of

Apple Computer. Core is now strong, quote, and all that will go away."

It has been a busy week for Apple. An expected article, Joseph A. Condit's resignation has been in Apple Computer Inc.'s chief financial officer (by the end of the year). He is stepping down, he says, "due to differences in opinion with the CEO." Subsequently, it was reported that Condit's resignation apparently came after he failed to convince the board and Spindler that the money being for Apple to do was to sell or merge the company.

Apple Resigns Subordinaries

Apple Computer Inc. has turned to Apple USA and Apple Canada subsidiaries into a new geographic division called Apple North America.

Apple says the new division is aimed at leveraging the proximity and market similarities between the U.S. and Canadian regions. James J. Buckley, the former president of Apple USA, has been named president of Apple North America. Peter Jones will remain president of Apple Canada and will report directly to Buckley.

Apple in Canada, which was previously part of the Apple Pacific region, will continue to operate as a separate and distinct subsidiary. says Apple and will maintain its distribution, service, and operations standards in addition to sales and marketing. This subsidiary will continue to be managed by its Canadian staff.

New Monitor From Apple

Apple Computer Inc. has begun shipping the Apple Monitor Scan 1700, a 17-inch color display for PC and Macintosh systems.

The 170000 product offers a 15.5-inch viewable screen area, plus a 100-degree shadow-mask picture tube with a 0.28 mm dot pitch. A multiple scan technology has been used to let the resolution more appropriate for the work being done.

For Macintosh users, Apple provides software that allows users to switch between three different screen modes: Page Layout, for viewing two full pages simultaneously; Publishing, which provides a 720x900-resolution for everyday work; and Presentation, which allows a 1440x color monitor.



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Cyrix releases fastest CPU for Windows

Cyrix claims a Windows 95 performance rating of 317 for its 486 processor, formerly called M1, running at 100 MHz. This figure rivals what Intel's Pentium running at 100 MHz can perform.

The Cyrix 486 is a sixth-generation superchip, superchip and processor. The chip features register renaming data dependency removal, multi-branch prediction, speculative execution and out-of-order completion capabilities. It has an 80-in floating-point unit with a 16 primary cache. Steve Tobin, VP of corporate marketing at Cyrix, said, "The bottom line is that the processor today runs Windows software faster than the 486."

Meanwhile, a sixth-generation chip from Intel, the Pentium Pro, is scheduled to be introduced later this year in powerful desktop workstations for engineers and scientists and in servers.

PC Magazine tests report compare with a version of the new 486 run 50 percent faster than computers using Intel's current Pentium.

Analyst Anne Trehan of Research Capital Corp. in Austin says he expects Cyrix's sales to nearly double to US\$482 million next year, compared with a projected \$243 million this year. "That is the first time that anyone has been in the high-end of Intel in the history of microprocessors. Now that they have a product that is comparable and with very high performance, the question is manufacturing capacity."

For more information, contact Future Assets International at (800) 445-5448.

Epson combines Ethernet with fax/modem on PCMCIA

Epson increases availability of a PCMCIA Type II card with Ethernet and fax/modem functionality. The card comes in two models: one with two serial ports and a 14400-bps Ethernet 10Base-T network cable variant will be available. The ELF 149A has a data rate of 14.4 kbps while ELF 209A runs at 28.8 kbps.

The card runs LAN and facsimile functions at the same time, allowing the serial multiplexing between functions.

The card supports OS/2 Warp and its special drivers that allow simultaneous functionality with current Card and Socket services and includes XDRS and CDR card services clients. The ELF is compatible with V.12bis and V.12bis depending on the data transfer speed. It also supports HPP-PPC for cellular use.

Intel introduces new mobile chip set

Intel of California introduced its mobile PCI chip set with the 82443MX PC bus, a PCI chip set designed to maximize the full potential of Pentium-based mobile computers. The 82443MX lets high-speed Ethernet and audio and graphics intensive applications run faster on mobile platforms. Windows apps can run up to 35% faster.

CDIS offers a home study of multimedia

Center for Digital Imaging and Sound, located in Beverly Hills, is offering HELP or Home Extended Learning Program. The 12-week program allows students to take home a workstation with all the software to produce multimedia and computer-based graphic work. This allows people to take a course and still work or attend other obligations that would prevent them from attending classes on a regular basis. Students also have access to a lab

with auxiliary equipment such as speakers, CD recorder, printer, high-end digital video capture and personal automation resources. CDIS 684-744-9408.

IBMmouse packed to 'net at 10Mbps

If you find packing into the 'net way too slow, try the IBMmouse and you'll be in 15 times the speed of your average 38.6 modem. Located at 910-73 Columbia St. near the Columbia Sky Train station in New Westminster, IBMmouse sells into on Pentium 90 running Windows 95 with 17" monitors plugged into the 'net with 10Mbps connections for 10 cents/minute. You can also use 44k modems for 20 cents a minute. Internet accounts start at 35 per month at 199.6 a year and advertising can have their own Web page for \$20 per year. IBMmouse also designs Webpages, offers word processing for many languages and accounting. They also rent cellular phones by the day. IBMmouse 604-521-4711.

Intel's vision of the near future

Dr. Andrew Grove, president and CEO of Intel Corp. unveiled at Intelcon 95 in Geneva, Switzerland his company's vision of communications and computing with a keynote speech and demonstration of "Smart Connections."

The term refers to the digital nature of communications and having a computer as either end of a telecommunication link.

"In the emerging new communications computing industry, digital is the way in which people create information, send it to one another and plug it back for viewing. They're doing this through new devices: digital devices over the PC," said Dr. Grove.

Using a new multipoint Protocol personal conferencing product, two community hospitals were linked in the Geneva audience to demonstrate how an ordinary PC combined with digital telecommunication infrastructure can improve the delivery of medical care in South Africa. The three-way exchange of medical data without Intel's ProShare VS200 Conferencing system on HP 100-MHz Pentium PCs and using ISDN modems and satellite communications technology. A sample demonstration was done in a keynote context with a connection to a Japanese company and ideas were exchanged on a design. Dr. Grove then discussed a cellular global system for mobile (33M) modems with wireless technology from Teknor product a full range, data and video conference across the cellular connections on a laptop.

Real-time video chat with synchronized lip movements was demonstrated over the Internet with a product from Enter-Video Inc. A short page allowed one user to talk in real time with two others in talking heads.

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TOP LINK

A large number of new desktop PCs now include CD-ROM drives as standard equipment, primarily because vendors of operating systems and applications software are turning to CD-ROM as the medium of choice for transporting their programs to and from. In fact, the variety of high-quality applications, games, multimedia and educational software titles available on CD-ROM has grown tremendously in recent years.

Today, the two primary types of CD-ROM drives are dual speed (2x) and quad speed (4x) CD-ROMs. Both are laser-optic techniques for reading data from the disk. Originally designed for capacity rather than speed of access, the 2x variants of these drives are noticeably slow, especially when it comes to streaming multimedia programs with video clips. Users generally find a dramatic performance improvement by purchasing computers with 4x CD-ROM drives.



Their directors, also known as PCMCIA Cards, pack a variety of proprietary and/or state-of-the-art technology into the form of a pluggable card. Among the components typically included in PC Cards are video, I/O, input and output hardware (such as keyboards, joysticks, or touch-sensitive hard disks), hard memory devices, bus/modems and more. Many of the peripherals in the Type I PCMCIA cards (also known as standard), others proprietary (Type II or Type III) card sets. If you are going to use PC Cards the best choice is to get a Type I card. The reason: The hardware desktop and compatible computer systems, for example, is sure that the computer you buy has card slots adequate for the PC Cards you intend to use.

If you intend to be surfing the net or shopping in constant contact with the corporate office, you'll need a modern. Current modem speeds (expressed in kilobits per second) range from 2400

lbs to 2000 lbs. In general, the faster the better, but if you're not going to be transferring massive graphics files or very large data files, you may not need the fastest medium, although in a good idea to have at least 10 Gbps.

Most desktop keyboards are industry-standard 101-key models including QWERTY layout, function keys, cursor control and numeric pad. New additions are available that provide

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Table 1



Figure 1. A schematic diagram of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group and the experimental group. The control group received a standard training program, while the experimental group received a modified training program. The subjects were then tested on a series of tasks, and their performance was compared between the two groups.



Wolke, D., & Bloom, P. (2002). *Handbook of research on early childhood education*. New York: Guilford Press.



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substantial ergonomic benefit. Most of these feature some variation on a miniature or hinged keyboard, attaching more natural hand and wrist positioning and reducing repetitive stresses.

There are also several new devices competing with the old "mouse"-type pointing device. While most of these devices are now used only in wordprocessing applications, you can expect some of

them to show up on desktop PCs in the near future. Examples include stylus-and-finger-touch controls, as well as touchpads and trackballs.

Software bundles

A large number of computer vendors offer a wide variety of software packages that are preloaded onto their computers. But if you already have an adequate selection of software that you intend to transfer onto

the new computer, these bundles may be much more than you want. So, before you select your system, determine what software you will or will not need; you may prefer simply to buy a system without any pre-installed software.

Monitors

Nearly every monitor on display is compatible with all current PC models. SVGA monitors are more expensive and generate higher resolution images by using up to 1,380 x 1,024 pixels or dots with a minimum of 256 color variations (basic monitors support "TrueColor," or application-specific color variations). VGA monitors can generate 640 x 480 pixel images at up to 66 colors. There's also a wide variety of screen sizes available, with an average range of 14 to 20 inches. If you're planning to use your system for engineering or design, multimedia editing or published production applica-

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☐ Product development manager

☐ Computer consultant

☐ System manager

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☐ Government purchasing agent

☐ Computer maintenance/wholesale/retail

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☐ 500000-999999 ☐ 1000000-4999999

☐ 5000000-9999999 ☐ 10000000-49999999

☐ 50000000-99999999 ☐ 100000000-499999999

☐ 500000000-999999999 ☐ 1000000000-4999999999

☐ 5000000000-9999999999 ☐ 10000000000-49999999999

☐ 50000000000-99999999999 ☐ 100000000000-499999999999

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☐ 5000000000000000-9999999999999999 ☐ 10000000000000000-49999999999999999

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adequate system stability, storage capacity and processing power to accommodate the increased data throughput while some of these peripherals arrive.

Conclusion

Technology aside, purchasing a computer system has

become more difficult as options have increased and as functionality and technology have become more affordable. The good news is, the bottom line is relatively straightforward: determine what base configuration you need and what options you want, and then select the system that meets your expectations for price and performance. □

About the author: Russ Miller has served as the Vice President, Sales & Marketing for Eikon Canada since 1990. Eikon Canada is affiliated with Eikon Corporation, a global manufacturer and supplier of high quality technology products that meet customer demands for increased functionality, computer system performance and energy efficiency.

time, you'll want the largest available monitor with TrueColor support and the highest possible pixel density for maximum performance and display quality.

Peripherals

Users who want to purchase additional peripherals should plan ahead for them when purchasing the computer itself.

Printers

Current print technologies include inkjet, laser, and dot matrix. Inkjet printers are faster and quieter than dot matrix printers, and with recent advances in ink jet technology, photo-quality color output rivals the output quality of multi-hundred dollar laser printers for a fraction of the cost. If color printing is not as high on your priority list as cost, a dot matrix or a low-cost monochrome laser may be a more appropriate solution. Dot matrix printers are extremely durable and compatible, offer quality text output, and are very useful in applications such as check and form printing, while lasers are exceptionally quiet, offer a crisp image, and print at the fastest speeds. As with other peripherals, the most important consideration when purchasing a printer is usage. Ink jet, laser and dot matrix all provide quality output, so you must first determine how you will use your printer, whether or not you need color, and then select the printer that provides the best price/performance to meet your needs.

External Peripherals

The variety of available peripheral devices is growing steadily. Examples include CD-ROM players, modems and faxmodems, scanners, speakers and microphones, infrared and barcode readers, digital cameras and more. If you think you will need one or more of these devices, make sure your computer's peripheral interface will accommodate it. Also, be sure that your computer has

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Many Communications was approached by a web directory company. They were offered all the advantages of this new medium and promised the exposure to a 15 million user marketplace. After several months

of world wide exposure, Galaxy had only received two or three hits on their page. They had been left hanging in cyberspace.

There are many companies offering a new and exciting way to advertise and approach new and international markets through the world wide web. They will buy if your page(s) and include them in their directory - for a fee. This is all well and good but a very minimal approach to establishing your company in front of a potential 15 million people. For example, the most common sales path for web pages today is that your page will be included in a site that gets a great number of hits. In other words, a high traffic site to the web. However, you cannot guarantee that people will "hit" your page! You have to hope that the users come to your page or pay more for placement on one of the top level or entry pages to the site to bolster your chance of traffic. You can only assure people to hit your page but they can choose to surf where they want. You may want your web pages included in this site as part of your overall web marketing strategy. However, because of the sales path offering web presence with high traffic because there is more to marketing your company on the web than being included in one high traffic web site or directory.

How will people find you on the internet? How can you interact with potential clients? How can you get your message across and invite people to surf your web pages? You need an internet marketing strategy.

Any web publisher should be able to offer this type of consultation. However, many are not interested in providing this service only publishing pages and many are not qualified to offer marketing consultation. There is more to internet marketing than a few associations in newsgroups included in search engines or directories. On the web, marketing is as critical as solid technical background in a successful web presence, promotion or virus.

Domain Names

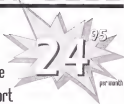
You already have well designed pages utilizing the characteristics of the web to your advantage and taking particular consideration to your company's image and presentation. Before you publish your pages you need to consider a domain name (URL). This is the address that people need to locate you on the internet. Keep it short, relevant and as unique as possible. Domain names are not merely addresses but convey, certain image to the user before they even see your pages. The domain name you

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to join. Secondly, you can consult with your ISP and create a new group off of one of the newsgroups in the Usenet and invite people to join. Either way you can create a forum for discussion around your industry or product. This can be a powerful way to provide a very useful platform for delivering and measuring industry developments and news.

Email

Email is probably one of the most abused methods of distributing information but also one of the most effective. Offering to mail people more information or to give a mailing list off your web page can be an excellent resource for business contacts. Developing an e-mail newsletter that is distributed monthly to users who have already agreed to accept it gives you a captive audience. It is relatively easy and inexpensive to develop. E-mail newsletters provide a vehicle for your company to project a secure and intelligent image as well as providing business resources or industry intelligence. Simply networking with people through e-mail on the web is also an excellent method for connecting with people.

Signature File

The use of a signature file (SIG file) can provide another avenue of contact

to your company. Your SIG file is the several lines of text which will appear on your Usenet postings and your e-mail. Typically they include company names, phone numbers, addresses, alternate e-mail addresses, the URL of your home page, subdomains or projects with which you are involved. They can also include slogans, favorite quotes or ASCII art. Whenever you decide to include in your SIG file remember to keep it smaller for downloading purposes and clearly lay them out for ease of reading. Here then once I've looked at SIG files for mailing addresses and phone numbers of people I wanted to contact or for the correct spelling of a company name. They provide key information for clients and present your company's vital contact information.

Traditional Marketing on the Web

Apart from the various electronic methods of marketing which require careful thought and strategic implementation, there are several simple ways for companies to market on the net. For example, buy an advertising spot on Netscape's "What's Cool?" page. Netscape's pages are frequented by everyone on the globe every month of the day. All a user has to do is click on the icon bar and they go directly to your pages. There are many free directories

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and resources on the web on which you can get your site linked. Creating a vision or directory of industry related links on your site enables others to link to your site as well. One directory is not enough! What you want is many links to your site not just one link in a high traffic site. There are also externally and internally linking a monthly fee for inclusion in their listings. For the cost of a quarter page ad in the Vancouver Sun or Province for one day you can be included in some of these directories for half a whole year!

Comprehensive Marketing Strategies

Finally, marketing approaches on-line need to be coordinated with your real world marketing. Cross promotion between your print advertising and web pages can draw people to your web pages and vice versa throughout. Publish your URL on your business cards and company literature. Create radio and TV advertising that connect your on-line marketing with your other marketing approaches and provide excellent exposure and promotion.

What happened to Galaxy Communications? They approached a professional web publishing company to develop their pages and an internet marketing strategy. They created a web site which clearly presented the company

and it's products and around internet people to contact them. Within days of the first phase of their marketing strategy Galaxy was receiving daily hits on their pages. Within four months, the business generated through the web site had paid for the new computer system they needed! Galaxy Communications has had the opportunity to test an on-line ad figure contains since their web initiatives which they otherwise would never had even known about.

Internet marketing strategies can be simply a few announcements in newspapers and submissions to search engines. They can also be much more comprehensive and creative in order to not only invite people to your web site but to keep them coming back. There are definite and tested ways of creating traffic at your computer site and traffic is what you need if you don't want to be frustrated with your first experience on the web.

So, you now have people contacting you, requesting information, wanting to purchase your product and services. Next month we'll look at conducting business on the web. How you can use the web to manage a virtual office. ☐

About the author: JD Miller is the principal of Vancouver Internet Publishing, and can be reached at jdmiller@vnet.com

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